

# THE EVENING CRITIC,

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Monday, October 31, 1881.

GEN. SWAIN has found a life job. He means to go over the papers in the Whitaker West Point car case.

HENRY WARD BEECHER announces that he has retired from the Christian Union. Certain people think that he did it some time ago.

SOME SUSPICIOUS people say that the formal threats sent by the League to America seem to show a good deal of that gratitude which includes a lively sense of favor to come.

A BOLIVIAN DOZANZA has been discovered on the Beni River, which seems indeed blessed. Forests of cinchona and cacti adorn its banks, and it is estimated that 10,000 men have gone there since the exploration of last winter.

THE LATEST word manufacture is "Impy." It is neat, concise and convenient, furnishing an admirable substitute for the more cumbersome and antiquated word, impious. Our English brothers have accepted it as a current term.

IN MICHIGAN the fresh spring blossoms of the lilac bushes are blooming sweetly among the bright tinted leaves of October. The entire crop of autumn poetry is therefore ruined, and even the Sweet Singer is unable to adjust his lines to the seasons.

THE United Ireland, the organ of the Land League, tells its own story and pleads its own cause by leaving in its late issue the editorial columns blank, surrounded by broad lines of mourning, and merely containing the words: "Freedom of the Press in Ireland in 1881."

JAPAN HAS FIXED UP her penal system after the French fashion. The Code Napoleon has been taken as the model, hanging is substituted for beheading, and criminals of all castes receive the same punishments and the same legal treatment, the privileges of rank being entirely abolished.

MR. TENNYSON, in his new poem, "Despair," seems to be pretty hard on the journals when he says:  
 "For these are the new dark ages, you see,  
 When the bats come out of their caves and  
 The owls are whooping at noon."  
 Severe as he is, the poet may be right. He refers only to the morning papers.

A GOLDEN DUSTMAN, lucky in contracts, made his last one with a London doctor. By provision in his will, his physician would receive \$2,000 for keeping him alive for two years, and \$1,000 more if the period was extended to five years. Unfortunately for the doctor, the contract was not fulfilled, the dustman died in a week, and the bequest lapsed.

SIR SIDNEY WATERLOO, who has labored with heart, hand and purse for the benefit of the working people of London, has learned from experience that the most efficacious means of giving help is to furnish good, clean, healthy homes, at a reasonable rent, paid invariably in advance. A man so placed feels his feet under him, and is apt to keep them there.

THE editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch was accused of a deep slumber the other night by the ghost of Grantism shaking the furniture up in his room, and the next day he penned off a violent screed on the damnable tendencies of the new Administration. He observes, under his commission as prophet, the following:

We are going to have a small Administration. We will again show to the world how little sense it can be governed. We will illustrate once more how great this Republic is in spite of the little men that accidents may lift into the highest places. For, no matter how high a man rises, the country will go right on and gain and prosper precisely as it grew in spite of Lincoln's assassination. In spite of Grant's appalling corruption, in spite of Hayes, fraud, Jockey, and Venard.

Of course, to a gentleman of Mr. Pullitzer's remarkable loyalty and economical traits, the reflection that no man can "pick up" this country and pitch it overboard is comforting. Go back and sleep, Joseph, till the play begins. Don't be premature. Up to the present time Mr. Arthur has been very courteously administering on the effects of his predecessor, and nobody can tell how much he is going to tip the country over on one side till he begins to manage the estate on his own hook.

SIGNS OF RETURNING BANITY can be detected in a great many quarters just about now. The correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer, who has been screaming "Stop thief" at the top of his voice, has decided to put a bandage on his jaw. Out of respect to the prevailing sentiment in Washington, he sends the following obituary after that cowardly sneak, Wayne MacVeagh:

Now, it is a matter of fact that the grand jury has been in session here for over three weeks, and as yet no officer of the Department of Justice has made any move to get the alleged State-route conspirators indicted. Brady and Dorsey are both on the ground, pleading guilty. The only proceeding thus far taken by the government officers is the filing of an information against the alleged conspirators.

These good lawyers say, will be thrown out of court by the judge, because the Constitution provides that persons held to trial for capital or otherwise infamous crimes shall be first presented by a grand jury. The President will persistently decline to accept Mr. MacVeagh's resignation until there is some disposition made of the cases. He will appeal to him to remain; but if he insists upon his resignation being accepted in face of these trials, and thus forestall it, it may be accompanied with a letter stating forth succinctly why, in the opinion of the President, Mr. MacVeagh ought to stay. If it comes to this, Mr. MacVeagh will not care to have it made public. What puts even a worse light upon the transactions of the Attorney-General is the fact that Mr. MacVeagh tried to induce Postmaster-General James to resign, and insist upon its acceptance.

This James did not do, because it is a fact that, no matter what other members of the cabinet may have done pro forma, he never resigned at all. It is not creditable to Mr. MacVeagh to have himself put in a position which enables those alleged to be connected with the State-route frauds to stand on street corners and openly denounce him for running away because he could not sustain what they claim are slanders upon them.

THE CRITIC has already called attention to the cruel inconsistency, not only in the laws, but in the social customs of the American people, by which any serious accident to a high official, by which his family is left in destitute circumstances, at once calls out a fund for their relief, while a similar visitation of Providence in the case of a poor mechanic, or unimportant factor in the public machinery of the Government, meets with a mere passing notice, and is then forgotten.

Take the case, for instance, of that poor fellow Lawrence, who was instantly killed the other day at the Navy-yard. He was at the post of duty assigned, carrying out the orders of his superior in command. A sudden explosion ends him in the twinkling of an eye, leaving all he loved in this world to the mercy of the public.

In behalf of the wife and eight children thus thrown defenseless on the community, we should like to ask wherein George Lawrence, mechanic at the Government Navy-yard, killed while engaged in Government work, is less a martyr to duty than the late Chief Executive, assassinated while in the act of administering the Government's laws?

Both, though in vastly different spheres, were stricken down while serving the United States, and both are entitled to the gratitude and humanity of a relief fund for their families. We are entirely too rich and powerful to indulge in any wholesale and merciless distinctions where the bare principle involved is the same.

There are precedents where pensions have been granted the families of public servants thus bereaved. The sufferers by the Navy-yard explosion some years ago were provided for by special acts of Congress, and financial relief was granted in the same way to the man who lost his eyesight by an explosion of gas in the Capitol.

We have no doubt that Congress will also cheerfully recognize its obligations to the family of George Lawrence. But all that takes time.

Meanwhile, we understand that immediate and substantial relief is needed. Appeals to the benevolence of the public are therefore made. The CRITIC will take charge of all contributions, giving due acknowledgment, and see that they are placed in the hands of the Lawrence family. A popular movement, on the small subscription basis, would be a creditable act of charity and not enough to tide the sufferers over till Congress can afford permanent relief. Let it begin at once.

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